The Assistive Technology Continuum

Devices to try if a student has problems with…

Tasks

reading writing
spelling / grammar
communication
worksheet completion
math
mapping
note-taking
organization / planning
learning another language

Needs

faster work
legible, understandable work
comprehension
same work as everyone else
modified, shortened, parallel work
visual / graphic/ auditory presentations
independent work
fine motor practice
sharing of knowledge
correct grammar / spelling

Environments

classroom
resource / study hall
therapy
home
community

Problems → Success / Independence

Low Tech Tools

specialized pens / pencils / crayons / markers / grips
specialized erasers, correction tapes
raised line paper, grid paper, colored papers
highlighters, highlighter tapes
color coding
Post-It notes, flags, arrows
colored filters, page overlays (clear acetate sheets)
NCR paper
reading / writing guides
slanted surfaces, dycem, copy holder
white board, markers, crayons
magnetic letters , tactile letters
magnifiers
rubber stamps, labels
specialized measuring and cutting tools

Mid Tech Tools

tape recorders
digital recorders
calculators
spell checker, dictionary / thesaurus (talking)
dedicated word processor
electronic organizer
audio books
music (tapes / CDs)
electronic eraser, stapler
mini-book lights
switch operated toys and appliances

High Tech Tools

alternative keyboard / alternative cursor control
word processing
word prediction
brainstorming, graphic organization
spell checker, grammar checker
word banks (on-screen, overlays)
text readers
on-screen math, computer calculators
communication devices / software
internet access
CD reference (maps, encyclopedias)
environmental control devices

Judith Sweeney
©1998